

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube comprising:

inserting a mandrel into a blank tube in a form of a welded tube:

applying a parallel swaging operation ~~by means of a~~ by translating a cylindrical die axially along and relative to the blank tube and the mandrel so as to cause the blank tube to contact tightly with the mandrel;

subsequently withdrawing the cylindrical die from the blank tube, while keeping the mandrel in the blank tube; and

moving a push-die to the blank tube from a radially outward position to flatten a weld portion on the blank tube in cooperation with the mandrel.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with ~~Claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a tapered surface is formed at an inner edge of a tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the cylindrical die.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with ~~Claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a reduced thickness portion is formed at a tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the cylindrical die, so that the reduced thickness portion can be used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of working a tube in accordance with Claim 3, wherein a reduced thickness portion is formed at the tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the cylindrical die so that the reduced thickness portion can be used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 1, wherein ~~the die is a cylindrical die and~~ a relief portion is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

7. (Cancelled) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 3, wherein ~~the die is a cylindrical die and~~ a relief portion is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 4, wherein ~~the die is a cylindrical die and~~ a relief portion is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical

die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 5, wherein ~~the die is a cylindrical die and~~ a relief portion is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

11.(Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An apparatus for working a tube, said apparatus comprising a parallel swaging machine and a push-die, said parallel swaging machine including a clamp for supporting a blank tube, a mandrel insertable into the blank tube when supported on the clamp, and a cylindrical die that translates along the blank tube when supported on said clamp,

said push-die being mounted on said parallel swaging machine so that it moves toward the blank tube from a radially outward position and away from the blank tube.

12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for working a tube in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a forming surface is provided on said mandrel for forming a tip end of the blank tube to have a thickness that is less than an adjacent wall portion of the blank tube.